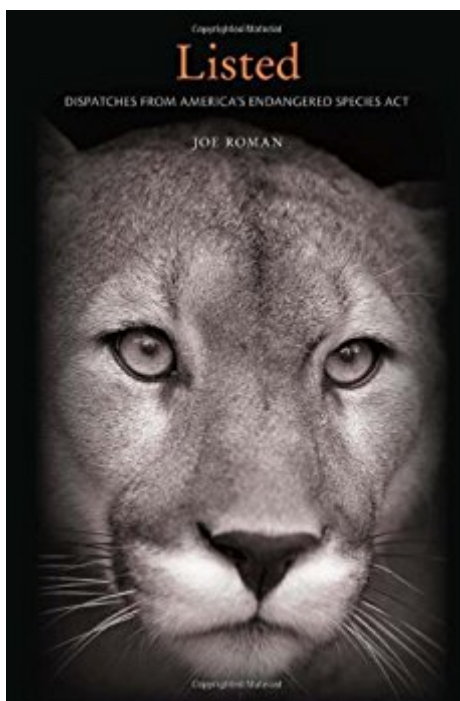


The book was found

Listed



Synopsis

A lot has changed since the 1970s, when the tiny snail darter went extinct on the Little Tennessee River. Joe Roman helps us understand why we should all be happy about the sweeping law that made these changes possible. *Listed* is an engaging tale of endangered species in the wild and the people working to save them.

Book Information

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Ecology

Customer Reviews

Biodiversity is important! Why? *Listed: Dispatches from America's Endangered Species Act* by Joe Roman, gives many answers to this question. *Listed* is a 2011 book of great import, and one which any person who cares about life on planet Earth should read. In his prologue, Roman clearly states the purpose of his work: to see if biodiversity protection is working, and how humans are being affected by it (Roman 4). Examining these questions through beautiful and moving stories of endangered species and the people who live near them, Roman shows the conflict between species protection and human economics, and presents information on how humans and nature can work together for the benefit of all. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 was made to protect listed

species from becoming extinct. However, there has always been a lot of conflict between conservation of species and human economics. Roman focuses on two main issues: how species are protected and what more needs to be done in that realm, and the conflict between conservation and economics, suggesting that conservation can bring huge benefits to the human population. Using stories like that of the red-cockaded woodpecker, Roman supports the idea that nature is the basis for the economy. Throughout the book, Roman makes a point of showing what economic benefits nature brings to human life. However, in order for humans to gain these benefits, biodiversity needs to be protected. These benefits come from the intricate workings of various precisely balanced ecosystems. Roman points out that diversity in genetics, species, and natural communities can stabilize an ecosystem (Roman 83).

This swift-moving history of the Endangered Species Act culminates with prescriptions for enhancing environmental law, and suggestions for infusing ecological economics and other disciplines into wildlife conservation. Roman also implies often and well that many conservation biologists are consistently practicing neither conservation biology nor ethics (307.) More a series of cogent essays re: the importance of ESA, portraits of its champions and political opponents, and brilliant species-specific commentaries on the ways in which protection of the less-storied species, helped ensure the restoration or growth of ecosystems, Roman adds character to his material with personal comments and recollections which are well-hewn, literary and deeply felt. While I thought the narrative meandered for 20 or 30 pages in its discussion of the deer tick, Roman's challenge to worn hypotheses about the etiology of Lyme disease, I was transfixed by every word. I will recommend this work to dozens of colleagues in wildlife rehab and biology -- and even more to voters, and intelligent lay readers. As one who questions my state's mandate for a wolf hunt (ongoing at this writing) soon after the Feds delisted the gray wolf in Minnesota, Roman stresses that, while ESA was crafted to ensure the SURVIVAL of threatened species, its ultimate purpose is to support, with legal durability, the restoration and support of regional ecosystems to self-sustaining levels. It is consistent with the values of ESA to study particular habitats and species-specific memes, to characterize areas of distribution as, eg. "wolf country," domains in which the wolf dominates for reasons which benefit our shared ecosystems. Roman's closing remarks are thought-provoking, too.

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